

RADIO SHOW -- TB

Sharon: This is the Healthy Kansas Minute. I'm Sharon Watson, and with me is Dr. Howard Rodenberg, state health director with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Many people think that tuberculosis, or TB, is a thing of the past, but that's just not true, is it?

Dr. Howard Rodenberg: Unfortunately, TB is still with us today. TB is caused by bacteria that usually attack the lungs, but can infect almost any part of the body.

Sharon: How is TB spread?

Dr. Howard Rodenberg: Active TB can be spread from person to person. People with active TB can be treated and cured if they seek medical help in time.

Sharon: What is latent TB?.

Dr. Howard Rodenberg: Some people who become infected do not feel sick and cannot spread TB to others. This is called latent TB. A simple skin test by your doctor can detect latent TB. People with latent TB can take medicine to stop it from becoming active.

Sharon: Thank you, Dr. Rodenberg. To learn more about health in Kansas, please visit www.healthykansas.org. This has been the Healthy Kansas Minute!